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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 41

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

PATSY G. TRUJILLO

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON CONCERNS OF THE
HANDICAPPED TO STUDY THE HOUSING NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH MULTIPLE
CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY AND TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO MEET THOSE NEEDS.

WHEREAS, lack of adequate housing is consistently
identified as the number one problem for people with multiple
chemical sensitivities; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with multiple chemical
sensitivities are homeless during the course of their illness,
forced to live outdoors or under substandard conditions due to
their illness; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for both short-term and long-term
appropriate housing, as well as emergency shelter, for such
people; and

WHEREAS, people with multiple chemical sensitivities often

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1 are denied adequate housing due to the presence of chemical
2 barriers or subtle or overt discrimination; and

3 WHEREAS, the presence of chemicals found in paint, plywood,
4 particle board, pesticides, new carpeting and many maintenance
5 and cleaning products blocks access for people with multiple
6 chemical sensitivities just as physical barriers block access
7 for people who use wheelchairs; and

8 WHEREAS, multiple chemical sensitivities is recognized as a
9 potentially disabling condition by the federal social security
10 administration and the United States department of housing and
11 urban development, and is covered by the federal Americans with
12 Disabilities Act of 1990 and the federal Fair Housing Act; and

13 WHEREAS, educating housing providers about the needs of
14 people with multiple chemical sensitivities and increasing
15 flexibility in local zoning regulations, building codes, shelter
16 rules and other common housing-related practices and conditions
17 would significantly increase housing and shelter opportunities
18 for people with multiple chemical sensitivities; and

19 WHEREAS, affordable and accessible housing would help
20 people with multiple chemical sensitivities to stabilize and
21 improve their health and increase their ability to continue or
22 return to employment; and

23 WHEREAS, affordable nontoxic housing would benefit the
24 general population as well as people with multiple chemical
25 sensitivities;

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor's committee on concerns of
3 the handicapped, together with the state housing authority of
4 the economic development department, study ways in which the
5 state can help provide housing and shelter for people with
6 multiple chemical sensitivities; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study address issues of
8 zoning, affordability, building materials, maintenance and
9 cleaning products and practices; indoor and outdoor air quality;
10 and barriers to the use of community housing programs; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study identify barriers to
12 housing and shelter for people with multiple chemical
13 sensitivities and propose solutions to eliminate or reduce those
14 barriers, including zoning exemptions, building code variances,
15 public education aimed at the housing rental industry,
16 supplemental housing subsidies and extension of visiting time
17 limitations in state parks; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor's committee on
19 concerns of the handicapped report the findings to the
20 legislative health and human services committee at its October
21 1997 meeting; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the governor's committee on concerns of the
24 handicapped, the state housing authority of the economic
25 development department and the legislative health and human

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1 services committee.

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